

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested in light of the amendments and remarks herein.

Upon entry of this amendment, claims 1-17 will be pending. By this amendment, claims 1 and 4 have been amended. No new matter has been added.

§ 103 Rejection of Claims 1 – 8, 9 and 13

In Section 1 of the Office Action, claims 1 – 8, 9 and 13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Florin et al. (U.S. Patent No 5,583,560; hereinafter referred to as “Florin”) in view of Kikinis et al. (U.S. Publication No. 2002/0166122; hereinafter referred to as “Kikinis”). Claims 1 and 4 have been amended to address the rejection.

In the Background section of the Specification, it was indicated, “[c]onventionally, in a set-top box and the like . . . , contents . . . are displayed, for example, on a multi-screen in order that a desired channel can be selected easily from a large number of channels . . . it is also considered that a desired program is watched and heard by time shift. If a user watches and hears the program thus recorded, there may be a case that the user desires to watch and hear only a specific scene. In this case, it is considered that the scene desired by the user can be selectively provided if a head of each scene is displayed as a still image and a corresponding scene is reproduced by selection made by the user. Accordingly, the operability can be improved. However, if those still images are displayed and disposed simply, the before-after relationship of the still images cannot be grasped easily, so the operability is deteriorated inversely.”

Background of the Specification, page 1, line 15 through page 2, line 9.

To address the above-described shortcomings of the conventional information providing apparatuses and methods, embodiments of the present invention provides “a video signal processing apparatus and a video signal processing method by which a large number of images, which are consecutive in time series can be displayed such that a before-after relationship between the images can be easily understood.” *Specification, page 2, lines 13-16.*

For example, the structure of information providing apparatus claim 1, as presented herein, includes:

“means for obtaining first index information from a first information source of the plurality of information sources, wherein the first index information includes representative information indicating scene changes in the information data provided through the first information source;

means for obtaining second index information from a second information source of the plurality of information sources;

means for displaying a categorized menu on the screen based on the obtained first and second index information; and

means for obtaining necessary information from the first or second information source, in response to selection operation on the menu screen, and for displaying information based on the necessary information,

wherein the menu screen is arranged to display the information in a plurality of dimensions and levels such that a substantial portion of the necessary information can be seen and navigated on a minimum number of screens to enable relatively easy programming decisions and selections, and

wherein the representative information indicating scene changes is captured and output to the first information source, and

wherein the representative information is recorded onto the first information source prior to obtaining the first index information.

(emphasis added)

Therefore, the structure of claim 1, as presented herein, includes means for obtaining first index information from a first information source of the plurality of information sources, wherein the representative information indicating scene changes is captured and output to the first information source for recordal, and wherein the representative information is recorded at the first information source prior to obtaining the first index information. That is, the first index information includes representative information indicating scene changes that is stored (recorded) onto the first information source. (Specification, page 8, ll. 13-15.) This recording occurs after the representative information indicating scene changes is detected and output to the first information source. (Specification, page 8, ll. 10-13.) This transfer and recording of the representative information occurs before the first index information is obtained from the first information source. (Specification, page 11, ll. 2-6.) Because the representative information is captured, outputted and recorded onto the first information device prior to the time the first index information is obtained, one may view images representing successive scenes of a program (e.g., a movie) at one time. This apparatus thus provides index information to provide temporal relationships among index images.

The Office Action states that Florin fails to disclose providing means “wherein the first index information includes representative information indicating scene changes in the information data provided through the first information source,” as provided in claim 1. (May 19, 2005 Office Action, page 4.) However, the Office Action states that Kikinis teaches this limitation. (May 19, 2005 Office Action, page 4.) Kikinis, however, fails to teach or suggest providing means wherein the representative information indicating scene changes is captured and output to the first information source for recordal, and wherein the representative information is recorded at the first information source prior to obtaining the first index information.

Rather, the portion of Kikinis discussing the capturing of representative information indicating scene changes is described in a different context. (Kikinis, [0039], [0049].) In Kikinis, real-time video stream information is received through a tuner, which is used to capture still images representing scene changes. (Kikinis, [0039], [0049].) These index images are immediately displayed as part of a real-time programming menu on a video display. (Kikinis, [0039], [0049].) The incoming program information is not recorded in a first information source after the representative information is captured, to allow for retrieval of first index image information (representing multiple scenes of a certain program) as provided by the apparatus claim 1. Therefore, Kikinis does not teach an apparatus by which a large number of images, which are consecutive in time series can be displayed such that a before-after relationship between the images can be easily understood, to meet the invention's objective of viewing index information in a temporal sequence. For this reason, the method of Kikinis does not disclose or teach claim 1. Therefore, it is maintained that Florin and Kikinis, individually or in combination fail to teach or suggest all the limitations of claim 1.

Based on the foregoing discussion, claim 1 should be allowable over Florin and Kikinis. Since independent claim 4 closely parallels, and recites substantially similar limitations as recited in, independent claim 1, claim 4 should also be allowable over Florin and Kikinis. Since claims 2-3, 5-8, 9 and 13 depend from one of claims 1 and 4, claims 2-3, 5-8, 9 and 13 should also be allowable over Florin and Kikinis.

Accordingly, it is submitted that the Examiner's rejection of claims 1-8, 9, and 13 based upon 35 U.S.C. §103(a) has been overcome by the present remarks and withdrawal thereof is respectfully requested.

§ 103(a) Rejection of Claims 10 – 12, 14, and 15 – 17

In Section 2 of the Office Action, claims 10 – 12, 14, and 15 – 17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Florin et al. (U.S. Patent No 5,583,560; hereinafter referred to as “Florin”) in view of Kikinis et al. (U.S. Publication No. 2002/0166122; hereinafter referred to as “Kikinis”) and further in view of Hatori et al. (U.S. Publication No. 5,977,974).

Claims 10-12, 14, and 15-17 depend from one of claims 1 and 4. It was indicated that “Hatori discloses displaying the plurality of still images in a temporal sequence so that relationships among the plurality of still images can be viewed in time series.” Even if this were true, Florin and Kikinis do not render obvious claim 1 or 4, as discussed above. Therefore, even if one were to combine Hatori with Florin and Kikinis, the combination would not include all the limitations of claims 10-12, 14, and 15-17, which depend from one of claims 1 and 4.

Therefore, it is submitted that Florin, Kikinis and Hatori, individually or in combination, fail to teach or suggest providing means wherein the representative information indicating scene changes is captured and output to the first information source, and wherein the representative information is recorded onto the first information source prior to obtaining the first index information.

Accordingly, it is submitted that the rejection of claims 10-12, 14, and 15-17 based upon 35 U.S.C. §103(a) has been overcome by the present remarks and withdrawal thereof is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, entry of this amendment, and the allowance of this application with claims 1-17 are respectfully solicited.

In regard to the claims amended herein and throughout the prosecution of this application, it is submitted that these claims, as originally presented, are patentably distinct over the prior art of record, and that these claims were in full compliance with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112. Changes that have been made to these claims were not made for the purpose of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §§101, 102, 103 or 112. Rather, these changes were made simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which Applicant is entitled.

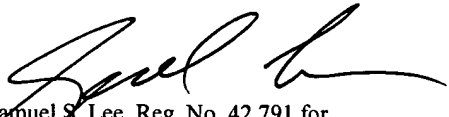
In the event that additional cooperation in this case may be helpful to complete its prosecution, the Examiner is cordially invited to contact Applicant's representative at the telephone number written below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any insufficient fees or credit any overpayment associated with the above-identified application to Deposit Account 50-0320.

Respectfully submitted,

FROMMER LAWRENCE & HAUG LLP

By:



Samuel S. Lee, Reg. No. 42,791 for
William S. Frommer
Reg. No. 25,506
(212) 588-0800